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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

Local Boards

Alleged issue of free passes to travel in buses by the President, Chingleput District Board.

*1789 Q.—Mr. Ramanath Goenka: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President of the Chingleput District Board issued passes to some of the servants of the District Board so as to enable them to travel in the buses plying for hire without paying the fare;

(b) whether it is a fact that the President issued notices to the licensees, threatening cancellation of licences for buses, if they refused to carry the District Board servants free of fare; and if so in how many cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some cases the President insisted on the bus owners refunding the fares collected from the District Board servants; and if so in how many cases; and

(d) under what provision the servants of the District Board are entitled to travel in buses free of fares, and under what authority the President issued exemption passes to them?

A.—(a) & (d) Yes. The President states that a friendly requisition was made to allow some of the Taluk and District Board peons free of charge in cases of emergency and that it was left to the option of the bus owners to collect the fares or not. He reports that in many cases fares were collected from the peons.

(b) No.

(c) No.

Opening of branch toll-gates in Tiruvallur and Saidapet taluks.

*1790 Q.—Mr. Ramanath Goenka: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chingleput District Board under the leadership of its President, has opened one branch toll-gate in the Tiruvallur taluk and another in the Saidapet taluk after the contractor has taken out the lease in public auction?

A.—Yes.

Interference of the President, Chingleput District Board, in taluk board elections.

*1791 Q.—Mr. Ramanath Goenka: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government is aware and have received complaints that the President of the Chingleput District Board is unduly interfering in the taluk board elections and is abusing his influence as the President; and

(b) if answer to (a) is in the affirmative what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) & (b) No such complaint has been received.